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U.S. OFFICIALS WORRIED BY GHANA ACTION

Also Are Mystified By Eruption Of Anti- Americanism

By PAUL W. WARD

[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, Feb. 5 — Officials here expressed mystification as well as concern today about a sudden and continuing eruption of anti-American demonstrations in Ghana.

"We are watching developments very closely and are very concerned," a State Department spokesman said.

But neither he nor any of the department's specialists in West African affairs was prepared to offer even speculative answers to such questions as: "Why are the other Western, or 'imperialist,' powers being spared and only the United States excoriated at Accra?"

Government Support

The mystification they professed on that score was compounded by notations that:

1. The anti-American demonstrations, begun yesterday and resumed today, were staged with overt support from the Ghanaian Government.

2. President Kwame Nkrumah, who dominates that Government, "to protest that the Ghanaian has consistently been friendly as well as business-like in his official dealings with United States representatives."

On the other hand, officials here also noted that anti-Americanism has been a frequent preachment of a Government-owned daily at Accra, whose editor, T. D. Baffoe, took part in the initial demonstrations outside the American embassy there yesterday.

Advance Information

According to reports reaching the State Department, a correspondent for Tass, the Soviet Government's official news agency, parked his car in the American embassy compound just before the demonstrators arrived and was followed on the scene by other Soviet-bloc newsmen who also had been given advance information as to what was about to happen.

The officially contrived character of the demonstrations was stressed by Richard L. Phillips, chief State Department press officer, when he was asked about them this afternoon.

"Echoing Charges"

"We have seen," he said, "press reports of further demonstrations in Accra following yesterday's organized demonstrations of protest outside the American embassy but we have no direct reports as yet on these new demonstrations."

Then, noting that "in yesterday's demonstrations no Americans were injured," Phillips added:

"In the wake of yesterday's demonstrations, the Government-controlled press has stepped up its anti-American campaign, echoing the charges shouted by an estimated 1,000 organized workers and civilian demonstrators. Vilification of the United States as an 'aggressor' in Korea, Panama, Cuba, the Congo and elsewhere was joined with accusations that the United States was spreading rumors with the intent of toppling the Nkrumah regime."

Last night, Phillips continued, G. Mennen Williams, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, called in Miguel A. Ribero, Nkrumah's Ambassador here, "to protest that the Ghanaian Government must have instigated, inspired or countenanced the anti-American demonstrations yesterday."

"No Action Taken"

"This action," Phillips added, "followed (United States) Ambassador William P. Mahoney's oral and written protest to the Ghanaian Foreign Minister, Kojo Botso, yesterday."

"There has been no action taken with respect to our aid programs," Phillips also said.

Under those programs Ghana has received, since becoming independent in 1957, approximately \$170,000,000 in loans and gifts from the United States.

Washington's biggest investment has been in Ghana's \$197,000,000 Volta River hydroelectric project, which is scheduled for completion in 1966. Half the capital investment is being supplied by the World Bank here plus the United States and British governments.

In addition, American private enterprise is making large investments in Ghana's industrial development. Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation and Reynolds Metals Company are jointly building a \$175,000,000 smelter at Tema which, using power from the Volta River project, is to produce at least 100,000 tons of aluminum ingot annually.

"We Are Fed Up"

Moreover, the Ghanaian Government recently has been advertising in this country for additional private-capital undertakings and promising tax and other concessions in return.

Yet Baffoe shouted, "We are fed up with your imperialist American dollars," as he incited demonstrators outside the American embassy at Accra yesterday. Using a Government soundtruck's loudspeaker, he also shouted:

"We'll massacre you (Americans) as you massacred people in Korea and Germany, in Cuba and Panama . . . You want to murder Nkrumah . . . You cannot kill Kwame Nkrumah."

The first wave of demonstrators was joined successively by three others, according to reports from Accra. Lashed on by the editor of Nkrumah's official daily, the *Ghanaian Times*, some of the demonstrators hauled down the American flag in front of the embassy. But A. Emerson Player, a 31-year-old American Negro, dashed out and hoisted the flag anew.

Representative Bolton (R., Ohio) urged today that Player be awarded the Medal of Freedom.

"Act Of Heroism"

"I can't think of a more appropriate means for expressing every American's pride in Mr. Player's act of heroism than in his being considered for the Medal of Freedom," the Ohio Republican said in a letter to President Johnson. "Reports indicate that at the extreme risk of life or serious bodily injury, M. Player's act exemplified a patriotic impulse painfully absent in too many incidents of this kind during the past few months."

Player, a native of Colorado and holder of graduate degrees from American and German universities, had been with the Defense Department here before his State Department assignment in July, 1962, to Accra, where he is listed as an assistant attache in the political section of the American embassy.

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